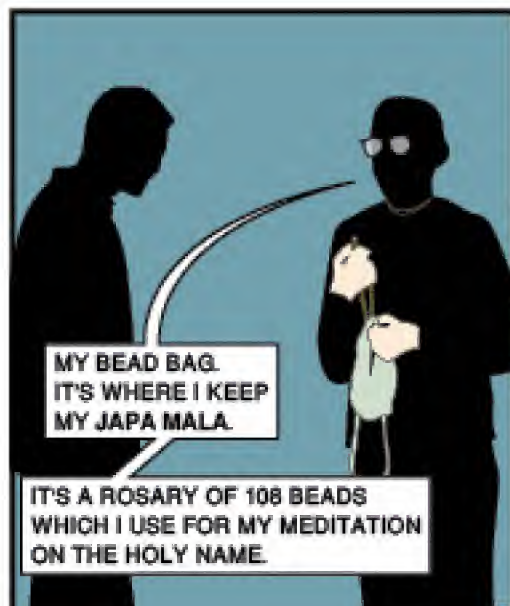


ISKCON



desire tree





MY BEAD BAG.
IT'S WHERE I KEEP
MY JAPA MALA.

IT'S A ROSARY OF 108 BEADS
WHICH I USE FOR MY MEDITATION
ON THE HOLY NAME.

EACH DAY I CHANT THE
HARE-KRISHNA MANTRA
ON THESE BEADS:

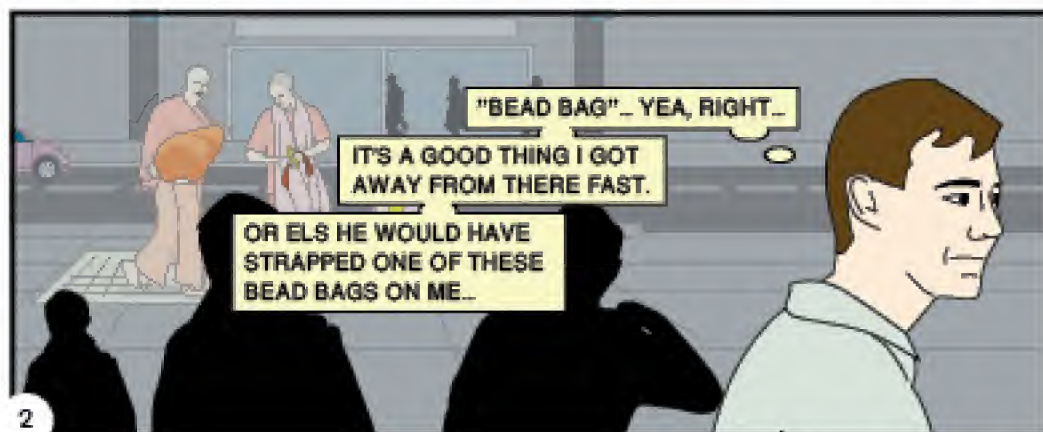
HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



IF YOU'D LIKE, I HAVE A PAMPHLET
THAT TELLS YOU ALL ABOUT IT.
HERE! WHY DON'T YOU HAVE ONE?

YEA, YEA. THANKS...

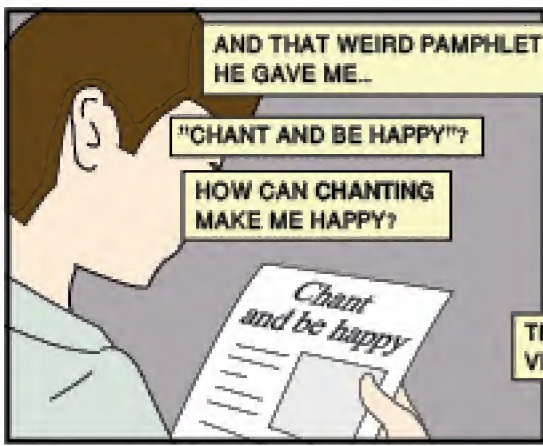
WHATEVER GETS YOU
OFF MY BACK, BALDY...



"BEAD BAG" - YEA, RIGHT...

IT'S A GOOD THING I GOT
AWAY FROM THERE FAST.

OR ELS HE WOULD HAVE
STRAPPED ONE OF THESE
BEAD BAGS ON ME...



AND THAT WEIRD PAMPHLET
HE GAVE ME...

"CHANT AND BE HAPPY"?

HOW CAN CHANTING
MAKE ME HAPPY?

*Chant
and be happy*

TRANSCENDENTAL
VIBRATION?

"The transcendental vibration of
chanting the Hare-Krishna Maha-
Mantra has the power to revive our
spiritual consciousness."

"Our spiritual consciousness
is our original state of being.
Right now it is covered by the
material illusion."

MATERIAL ILLUSION? WOULDN'T THAT BE
MY WHOLE EVERYDAY LIFE? DOES THIS
MEANS THEY WANT ME TO SHAVE MY
HEAD AND BECOME A MONK TO GET RID
OF ALL THAT?

SOUNDS LIKE RUNNING AWAY TO ME...

ISN'T CONSCIOUSNESS ABOUT
GETTING IN TUCH WITH REALITY?

HOW REALISTIC CAN THEY GET
DANCING IN THE STREETS WITH
THESE CLOTHES?

AND HOW DO I KNOW IF
THIS "CHANTING" THING
REALLY WORKS?





THE NEXT DAY:

HERE THEY ARE. SAME TIME, SAME PLACE
WITH THEIR "TRANSCENDENTAL CHANTING".

QUITE A NICE SHOW THOUGH. I WOULDN'T SAY
PROFESSIONAL, BUT THEY'RE PRETTY TALENTED.

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



WELL, I GUESS THEY DO PRACTICE A LOT
WITH THEIR CHANTING AND ALL...

AND YOU GOTTA HAND IT, THEY SEEM
PRETTY HAPPY WITH THEIR CHANTING...

BUT I'M NOT SAYING I'M CONVINCED
THIS ACTUALLY WORKS...

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA

KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE

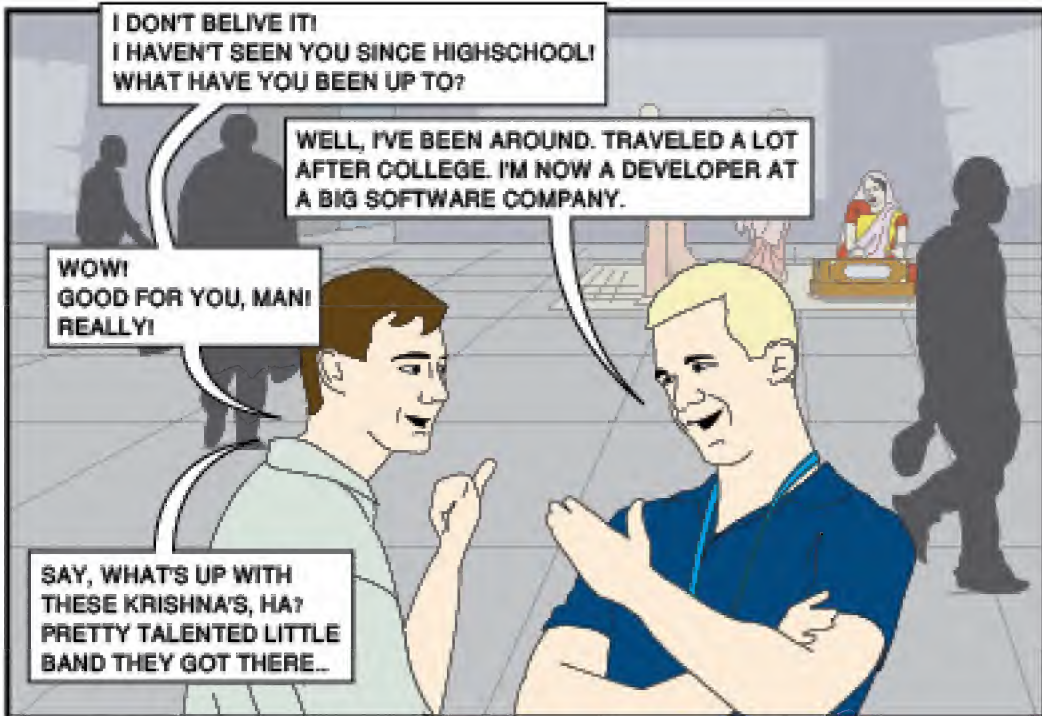
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA

RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



HEY DANNY! IT REALLY IS YOU!

HEY! HOW LONG HAVE
YOU BEEN STANDING
BEHIND ME?



I DON'T BELIEVE IT!
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE HIGHSCHOOL!
WHAT HAVE YOU BEEN UP TO?

WELL, I'VE BEEN AROUND. TRAVELED A LOT
AFTER COLLEGE. I'M NOW A DEVELOPER AT
A BIG SOFTWARE COMPANY.

WOW!
GOOD FOR YOU, MAN!
REALLY!


SAY, WHAT'S UP WITH
THESE KRISHNA'S, HA?
PRETTY TALENTED LITTLE
BAND THEY GOT THERE...



YEP. IT
SURE IS.

HEY, WAIT A MINUTE!
I KNOW WHAT IT IS YOU'RE
HOLDING THERE!

IT'S ONE OF THOSE
"BEAD BAGS"!



BUT THAT..
THAT WOULD MEAN YOU'RE
ONE OF THEM!!!

BUT HOW COULD
THIS BE?

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?

WELL...



YOUR HEAD IS NOT SHAVED,

YOUR NOT WEARING FUNNY CLOTHES,

AND YOU'VE JUST TOLD ME YOU WORK
FOR A BIG SOFTWARE COMPANY..

I'VE STARTED TO SHOW INTEREST IN SPIRITUALITY BACK IN COLLEGE. I TRIED YOGA, MEDITATION, READ ALL SORT OF NEW-AGE LITERATURE, EASTERN PHILOSOPHY...

IT MADE ME NICE AND RELAX, I MIGHT EVEN SAY TAUGHT ME SOME VERY IMPORTANT LESSONS, BUT YOU CAN'T SAY IT'S WHERE I FOUND WHAT I WAS LOOKING FOR.

THEN I CAME ACROSS THIS BOOK CALLED "THE BHAGAVAD-GITA AS IT IS". IT SEEMED TO PROPAGATE THE BENEFITS OF HARE-KRISHNA CHANTING ALL ALONG THE WAY.

SO AFTER READING A FEW CHAPTERS I DECIDED TO JUST TRY IT.

I KNOW ALL ABOUT MANTRA MEDITATION ALREADY AND I COULDN'T SEE WHY THIS WOULD BE ANY DIFFERENT. BUT IT WAS.

SO I STARTED CHANTING EVERY DAY AND AFTER A WHILE GOT SOME BEADS AND MADE ME A ROSARY TO KEEP TRACK.

SOMETIMES, AT WORK, I JUST CLOSE THE DOOR TO MY OFFICE AND CHANT FOR A FEW MINUTS...

SO IT'S A MEDITATION? THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?

WELL, YEA. THAT WOULD BE THE BASIC PRACTICE.

AND THE GUYS ON THE STREET,
SINGING AND DANCING?

DOING THEIR SERVICE, SPREADING
THE HOLLY NAME. THEY ARE
SERVING AT A TEMPLE.

AND THESE CLOTHES?
THE SHAVED HEADS?

THESE ARE THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES
OF ASCETICS IN INDIA.

WHAT IS THE ORIGIN OF HARE-KRISHNA?
IS IT INDIA? IS IT SOME SORT OF A 20TH
CENTURY "NEW-AGE" MOVEMENT?

THE SPREADING OF THE HARE-KRISHNA MANTRA
BY CONGREGATIONAL CHANTING STARTED IN
NAVADWIP INDIA IN THE 16TH CENTURY BY THE
VEDIC SCHOLAR CHAITANYA MAHAPRABHU.

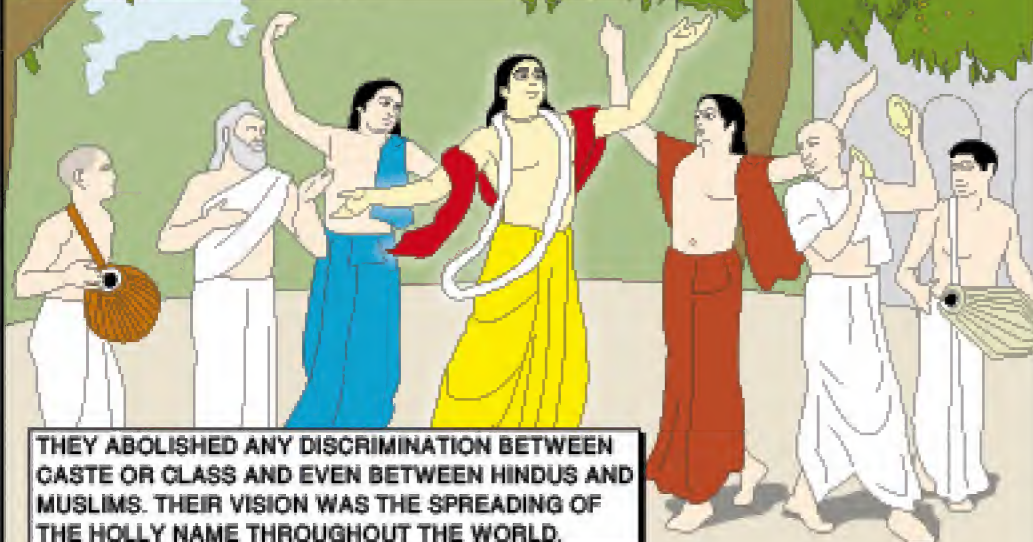
NAVADWIP

INDIA

CHAITANYA WAS A SCHOLAR FROM
THE VEDIC BRANCH OF VAISHNAVISM.
AT THE AGE OF 24 HE TOOK THE VOW
OF SANYAS, A LIFE LONG VOW OF
RENUNCIATION, IN A GOAL TO SPREAD
THE HOLLY NAME.

HIS IDEA WAS TO TAKE THE SPIRITUAL PROCESS
FROM THE TEMPLES AND OUT ON THE STREETS
AND DISTRIBUTE THE HOLLY NAME OUT LOUD, SO
THAT ANYONE COULD HEAR AND CHANT IT.

LORD CHAITANYA AND HIS DEVOTEES TRAVELED THROUGH TOWNS AND VILLAGES, SPREADING THE HOLLY NAME BY CONGREGATIONAL CHANTING.



THEY ABOLISHED ANY DISCRIMINATION BETWEEN CASTE OR CLASS AND EVEN BETWEEN HINDUS AND MUSLIMS. THEIR VISION WAS THE SPREADING OF THE HOLLY NAME THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

LIKE THOSE DEVOTEES IN THE STREET! I SEE! BUT WHAT IS THIS HOLLY NAME?

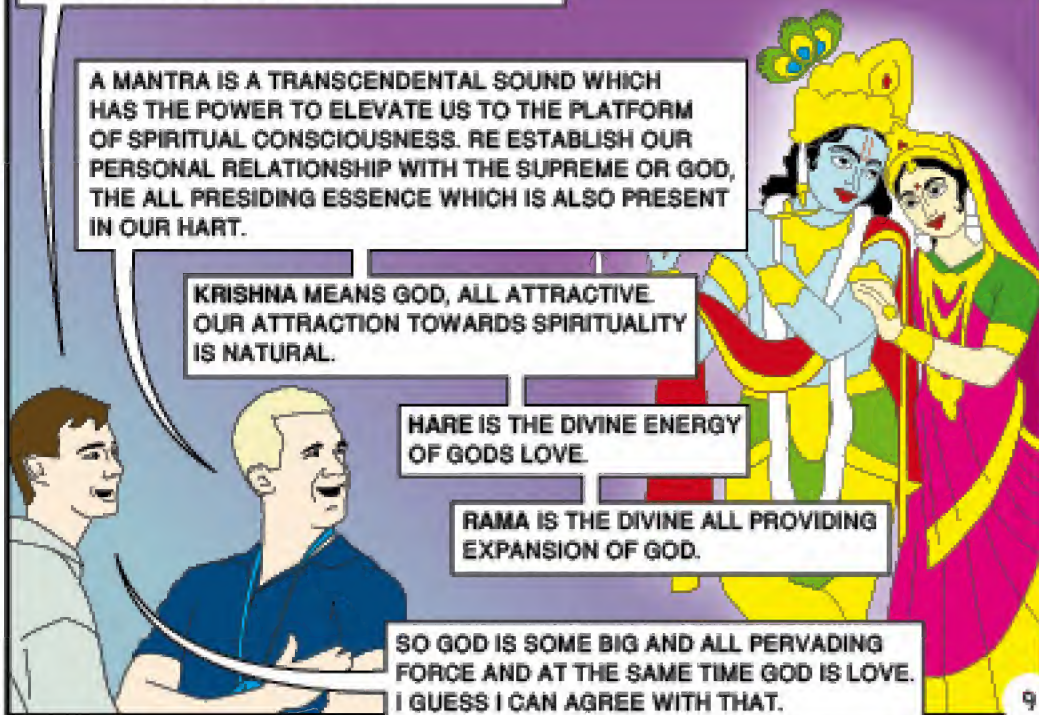
A MANTRA IS A TRANSCENDENTAL SOUND WHICH HAS THE POWER TO ELEVATE US TO THE PLATFORM OF SPIRITUAL CONSCIOUSNESS. RE ESTABLISH OUR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SUPREME OR GOD, THE ALL PRESIDING ESSENCE WHICH IS ALSO PRESENT IN OUR HART.

KRISHNA MEANS GOD, ALL ATTRACTIVE. OUR ATTRACTION TOWARDS SPIRITUALITY IS NATURAL.

HARE IS THE DIVINE ENERGY OF GODS LOVE.

RAMA IS THE DIVINE ALL PROVIDING EXPANSION OF GOD.

SO GOD IS SOME BIG AND ALL PERVADING FORCE AND AT THE SAME TIME GOD IS LOVE. I GUESS I CAN AGREE WITH THAT.



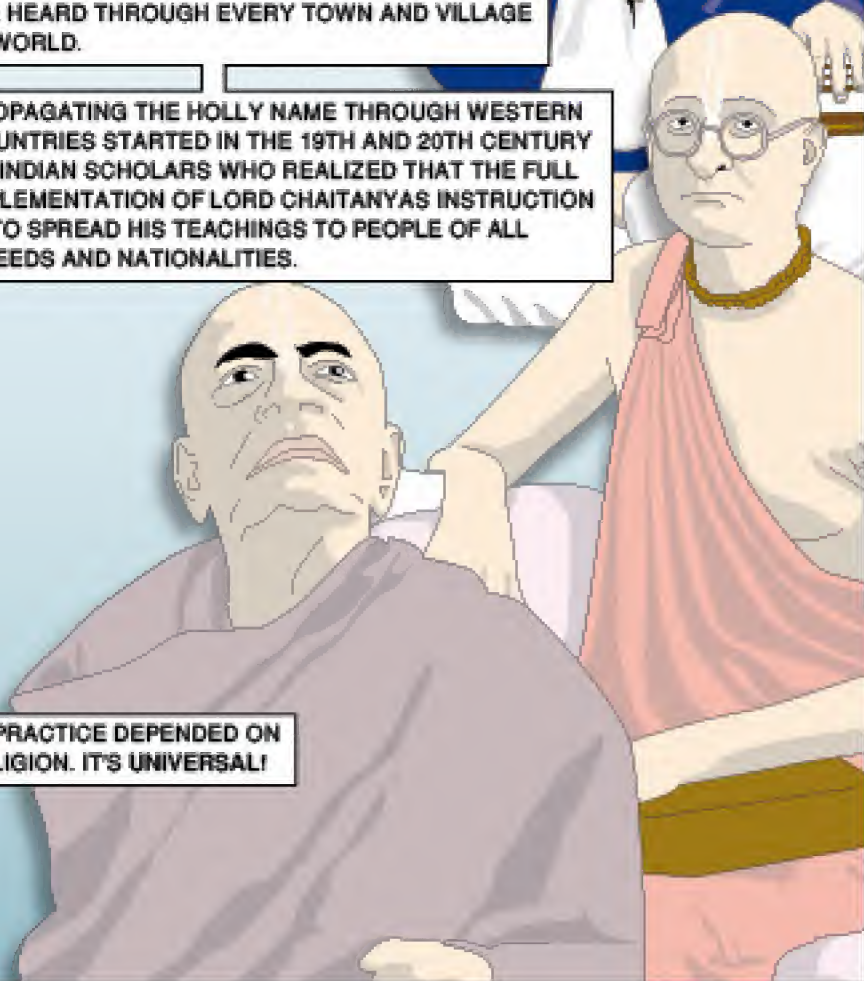


RECENTLY, WESTERNERS BEGAN TO SHOW INTEREST IN THE PHILOSOPHY OF LORD CHAITANYA. IT WAS IN FACT LORD CHAITANYA'S WISH THAT THE HOLLY NAME WILL BE HEARD THROUGH EVERY TOWN AND VILLAGE IN THE WORLD.

PROPAGATING THE HOLLY NAME THROUGH WESTERN COUNTRIES STARTED IN THE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY BY INDIAN SCHOLARS WHO REALIZED THAT THE FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF LORD CHAITANYA'S INSTRUCTION IS TO SPREAD HIS TEACHINGS TO PEOPLE OF ALL CREEDS AND NATIONALITIES.



SO IT'S NOT A PRACTICE DEPENDED ON A CERTAIN RELIGION. IT'S UNIVERSAL!



SO HOW DO I TO IT?

WELL, SIMPLE! REPEATEDLY CHANT
THE HARE-KRISHNA MAHA MANTRA:

*HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE*

TRY TO CONCENTRATE ON THE SOUND WHEN YOU DO
THIS MEDITATION. THE LORD AND HIS NAME ARE SAID
TO BE ONE AND THE SAME. SO WHEN YOU ATTENTIVELY
CHANT THE HOLLY NAME, YOU'RE ACTUALLY MAKING A
CONNECTION WITH GOD, THAT SPIRITUAL BEING THAT IS
IN ALL THINGS AND YET ALSO MANIFEST ITSELF WITHIN
OUR HEART TO HAVE A PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP WITH.


THERE ARE ALSO SOME RULES AND REGULATIONS THAT
CAN HELP YOU FOCUS IF YOU CHOOSE TO PRACTICE ON
REGULAR BASIS.

NO DRUGS, INCLUDING TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL,
SO THAT YOUR MIND WON'T BE DISTURBED.


NO MEAT EATING, SINCE IT'S INVOLVED WITH
VIOLENCE TOWARDS LIVING CREATURES.

NO GAMBLING. NO PROMISCUOUS SEX.

IN OTHER WORDS, TRY TO LIVE A SUBTLE LIFESTYLE.
THIS CAN HELP YOU CONFRONT YOUR EVERY DAY LIFE
AND STILL BE FOCUSED.



IS THAT IT? I ALWAYS THOUGHT HARE-KRISHNA
REQUIRES GIVING UP YOUR LIFE AND BECOME A
BALD HEADED HERMIT OR SOMETHING.



WELL, NOW YOU KNOW IT ISN'T.
I HAVEN'T, SO IT PROBABLY
DOESN'T.

SPIRITUAL LIFE, ACCORDING TO THE HARE-KRISHNA
PHILOSOPHY IS NOT RENOUNGING YOUR EVERY DAY
LIFE, AS IN OTHER COMMON PHILOSOPHIES.

I DON'T DETACH MYSELF PHYSICALLY FROM MY
JOB, FAMILY AND EVERY DAY LIFE. I SIMPLY TRY
TO DETACH FROM THE MENTAL CONCEPTION THAT
PUTS ME RIGHT IN THE CENTER AND TRY TO SEE
MYSELF AS GOD'S SERVANT.

THE TEACHINGS OF LORD KRISHNA INSTRUCT YOU TO
DO YOUR DUTY PRESCRIBED BY FAMILY AND SOCIETY
WHILE SHOWING YOU HOW TO DEDICATE YOUR
ACTIONS TO A HIGHER PURPOSE.

"Perform your prescribed duty, for
doing so is better than not working.
One cannot even maintain one's
physical body without work."

(Bhagavad-Gita 3.8)

"The yogīs, abandoning attachment,
act with body, mind, intelligence
and even with the senses, only for
the purpose of purification."

(Bhagavad-Gita 5.11)



WHAT IF I PREFER A DIFFERENT
NAME OF GOD?

THEN CHANT IT!
CHANT WHATEVER NAME
YOU PREFER. GOD IS ONE
AND HIS NAMES ARE MANY.

YOU KNOW, I ALWAYS THOUGHT ALL
THESE FEUDS BETWEEN DIFFERENT
RELIGIONS ARE SIMPLY OVER A NAME.
I MEAN, IT'S SILLY...

SPIRITUALITY IS ABOVE SECTARIANISM, RELIGION
AND NATIONALITY. I THINK TRUE RELIGION SHOULD
BE ABOUT JUST BEING AWARE OF GOD IN ALL AND
ACCEPTING THAT GOD IS IN OUR HART AS WELL AS
IN THE HARTS OF EVERYONE.

I MEAN, IF YOU ARE AWARE OF GOD'S
PRESENCE IN SOMEONE'S HART,
HOW CAN THERE BE A FEUD?



THERE'S JUST ONE THING:
HOW DO YOU KNOW THIS IS ALL TRUE? THAT
IT REALLY WORKS? THAT YOU HAVEN'T BEEN
DEFRAUDED?

WELL, I PRACTICE IT AND I
EXPERIENCE THE EFFECT MYSELF.
IT WORKS!

WELL, I HAVEN'T... SO
HOW DO I KNOW?

WELL, WHAT'S STOPPING YOU
FROM JUST TRYING?



I DON'T KNOW. I GUESS AT SOME LEVEL I'M
AFRAID THAT IF I'LL TRY IT OUT SOMEONE
WILL KIDNAP AND... LIKE... BRAINWASH ME
OR SOMETHING. IT'S SILLY, I KNOW...

WHAT, LIKE A SCIENCE-FICTION,
"CLOCKWORK ORANGE" KIND OF
THING? WHAT EVER GAVE YOU
THAT IDEA?

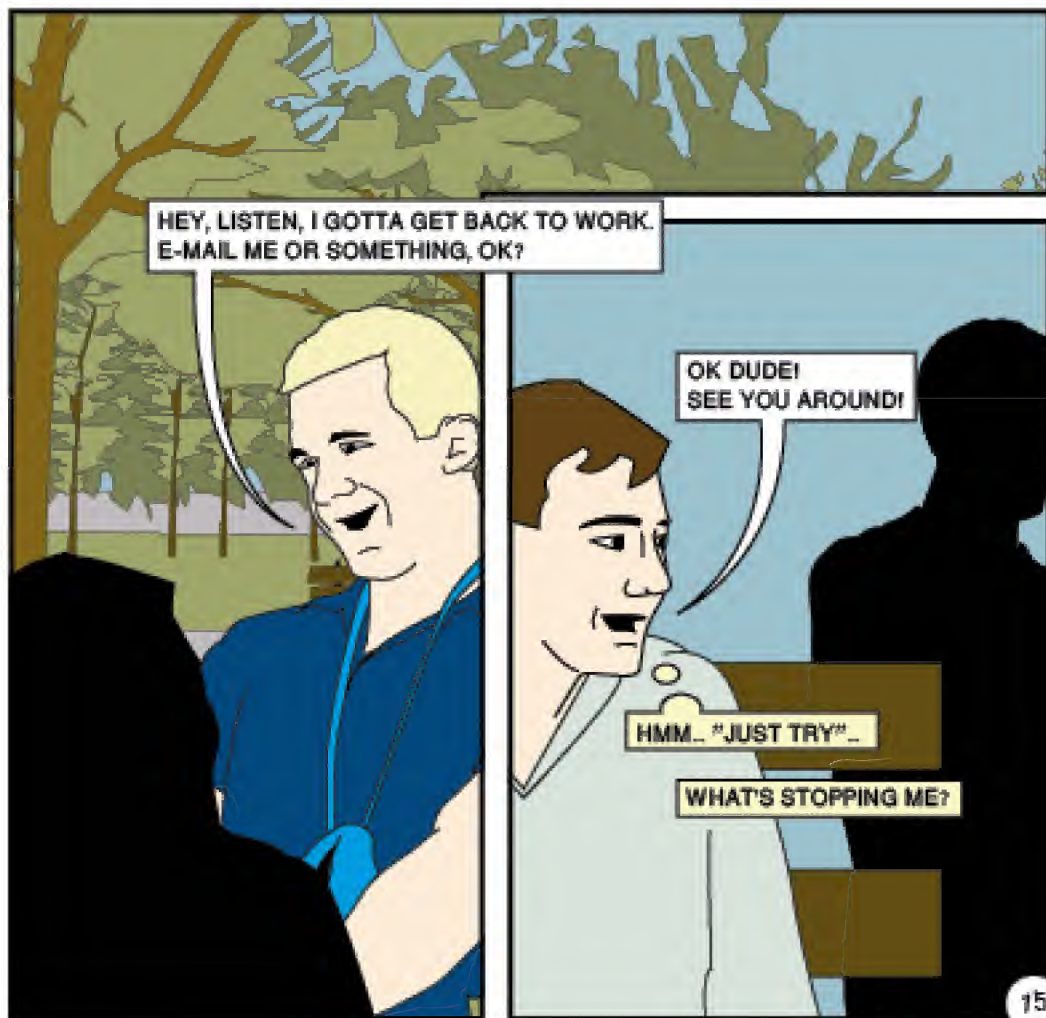
I GUESS I'VE HEARD SOMEBODY
SAYING IT SOMETIME.





WELL THEN, NOW SOMEBODY IS
TELLING YOU OTHERWISE! WHAT
STOPS YOU FROM SEEING FOR
YOURSELF?

TRY IT FOR A DAY, A WEEK, TWO WEEKS...
SEE FOR YOURSELF IF YOU ARE SO
INTERESTED, JUST TRY!



HEY, LISTEN, I GOTTA GET BACK TO WORK.
E-MAIL ME OR SOMETHING, OK?

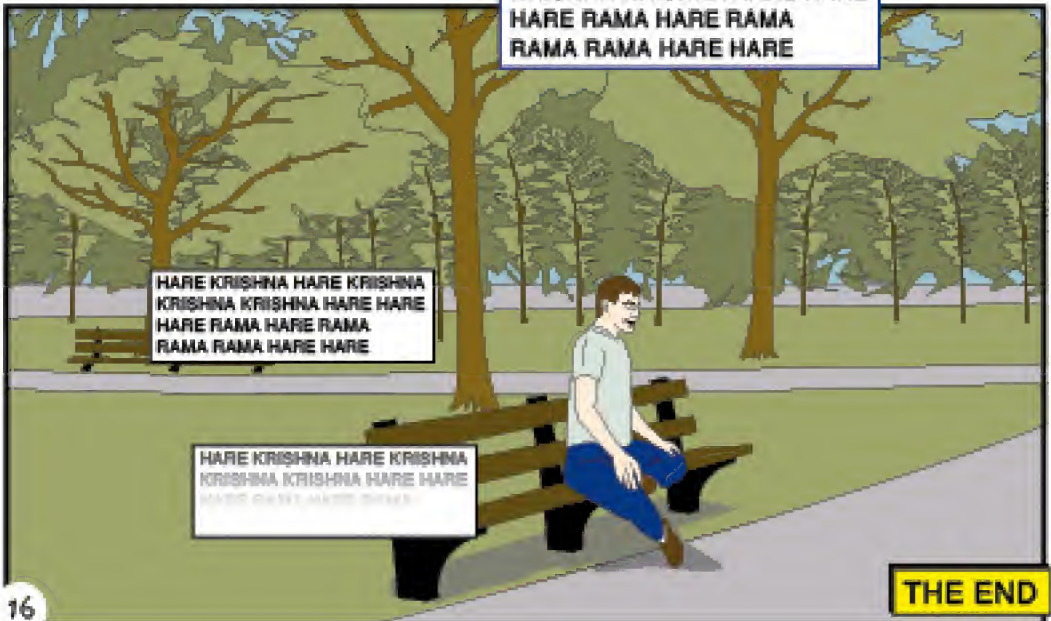
OK DUDE!
SEE YOU AROUND!

HMM... "JUST TRY"...

WHAT'S STOPPING ME?



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE



HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

HARE KRISHNA HARE KRISHNA
KRISHNA KRISHNA HARE HARE
HARE RAMA HARE RAMA
RAMA RAMA HARE HARE

THE END

Bhakta Omer is from Israel and a devotee since the age of 17 years. He is married and works in the graphic department of a major daily in Israel. He has created this comic as a service to Lord Krishna.